

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12-17 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 12-17 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 2 and 8 are objected to because of informalities. The claims have been amended to overcome the objections. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,920,301). In the amended Claim 1, the part 150 of the bridge portion 32 at the notch 105 insulates between the press-contact portions 40. Further, the core wires 31a connecting to the press-contact portions 40 are also insulated by the part 150 of the bridge portion 32.

However, in the cited reference Roberts, et al., the part (29) of the insulation (28) is disposed in the groove (22). Therefore, the connecting portions (12) are not insulated by the part of the insulation, which is created by the connecting portion.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2 and 8, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts, et al. Claim 9 ultimately depends from Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Thus, Claim 9 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 12-17 are believed to read on the elected species. New Claim 12 is a dependent claim which ultimately depends from Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

New Claim 13 is an independent claim which also defines the bridge portion as insulating between adjacent press-contact portions and is thus believed to be allowable. New Claims 14-17 ultimately depend from new Claim 13 and are also believed to be allowable.

REJOINDER

Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of Claims 3-7.

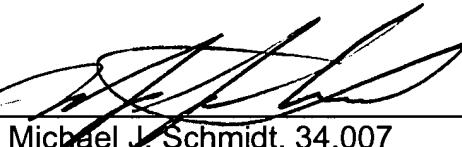
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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